



25 August 2004



## **SAFETY ALERT** **Soldier Killed in POV Crash**

1. USAREUR recently lost another young Soldier in a POV crash. He had just completed 16 months of duty in Iraq and was on well-deserved leave in the States. His hometown newspaper reported that he was driving over 65 miles per hour (mph) in a 30 mph zone when he lost control of his car and struck a tree. He was killed and three passengers were injured; one is paralyzed for life. This Soldier had recently celebrated his 20th birthday. What a sad and senseless tragedy.
2. The Army has lost 104 Soldiers to POV accidents this year. Eight of those Soldiers belonged to USAREUR. We have also seen a 20-percent increase in Army POV accidents over the last 3 years. Although we have started to reverse this trend in USAREUR, any loss of life is unacceptable. We cannot afford to lose a single Soldier.
3. All Soldiers returning from deployment have been given thorough training on the dangers they will face as they reintegrate to life at home and take rest and recuperation (R&R) leave. I cannot overemphasize how important it is to remain focused on risk management and personal safety during R&R and block leave. This is not the time to let down our guard.
4. I have directed leaders to become actively involved in ensuring the safety of their Soldiers by conducting "Meeting Under the Oak Tree" counseling sessions, providing safety tools and information, and using other means to raise safety awareness. Soldiers, however, are ultimately responsible for their own safety.
5. I ask all Soldiers to make a personal commitment to act responsibly and avoid unsafe behavior, both on and off duty, and to think about how their actions may affect others. Units, coworkers, and families all suffer when a fellow Soldier is injured or killed, even more so if the injury or death was due to carelessness.
6. Ensure that this safety alert is given widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards. "No loss of Life" is our goal. I want every Soldier to read this message and make a personal commitment to POV safety as we continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL  
General, USA  
Commanding

**ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE!**

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